

Dr. Karl A. Erb  
Director, Office of Polar Programs  
National Science Foundation  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Mr. Erb:

In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Science Foundation's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Project Icecube. We understand that this document was also prepared as a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation in accordance with Annex 1, Article 3 of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, Environmental Impact Assessment.

The proposed action would consist of the construction and operation of a high-energy neutrino telescope at the South Pole. The telescope will consist of an array of optical modules arranged within a cubic kilometer volume of ice in the polar ice sheet. The optical sensors will locate sources of high energy neutrinos from astrophysical events, such as exploding stars, gamma ray bursts, and cataclysmic phenomena involving black holes and neutron stars.

EPA believes that this EIS provides an adequate discussion of the potential environmental impacts of this project in Antarctica. Therefore, EPA has no objection to the proposed actions as discussed in this draft EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this final EIS. The staff contact for this review is Katherine Biggs (202-564-7144).

Sincerely,

Anne Norton Miller  
Director  
Office of Federal Activities

cc: Dr. Polly Penhale, NSF